

FACT SHEET

*Transportation, Distribution & Logistics*

South Carolina's location and transportation infrastructure assure fast, reliable access to national and international markets.

**INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM:** *Within 1,000 Miles of 75 Percent of the United States Population*

- South Carolina is crisscrossed by five interstate highways: I-20, I-26, I-77, I-85 and I-95. Offering excellent east-west and north-south access, these interstates are enhanced by more than 41,000 miles of state-maintained highways.
- South Carolina ranks fourth best in overall cost-effectiveness of state highway systems by the *Reason Foundation* in their 18th annual report on the performance of state highway systems. (Source: *The Reason Foundation*, Dec. 2009)
- South Carolina has more than 91 miles of state-maintained highways for every 10,000 people living in the state, the highest ratio of any state with at least one million people in its labor force. (Sources: *Reason Foundation*, *U.S. Census Bureau*)

**Transportation Infrastructure**



**THE PORT OF CHARLESTON** *Gateway to the Southeast*

The Port of Charleston is the eighth largest U.S. Custom District by value of its U.S. waterborne foreign trade and is the largest in the Southeast. More than \$62 billion worth of goods were moved through Charleston in 2008.

The Port of Charleston is one of only a handful of ports to have achieved the Presidential "E" and "E-Star" awards for excellence in exporting. Although shippers in two dozen states use Charleston to access foreign customers and suppliers, 45 percent of tonnage and about a third of containers are related to South Carolina firms. North Europe and Asia are the port's top markets, combining for 54 percent of total volume, but more than 150 nations are served directly from Charleston docks.

The Port of Charleston handled 1.37 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units), during FY 2009, while breakbulk cargo totaled 549,008 tons. The Port of Georgetown, a dedicated breakbulk and bulk facility, handled 286,254 tons of cargo. Commodities across Charleston docks include agricultural products, consumer goods, machinery, metals, vehicles,

chemicals and clay products, while in Georgetown steel, petroleum coke and wood briquettes were the top cargoes.

The Port of Charleston was named a Top 10 Port-Related Intermodal Site. (Source: *Area Development & LDW Logistics Distribution & Warehousing*, 2009)

**Top 10 States for Exports via Vessel by Value of Freight Trade, 2009**

State	Value (thousands of \$s)	Rank
Texas	\$72,508,218,012	1
California	\$34,662,660,857	2
Louisiana	\$29,759,887,330	3
Florida	\$20,914,697,281	4
Washington	\$15,662,814,148	5
Illinois	\$15,362,777,425	6
New York	\$13,263,722,926	7
<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>\$11,288,238,898</b>	<b>8</b>
Georgia	\$10,920,017,124	9
New Jersey	\$10,645,728,698	10

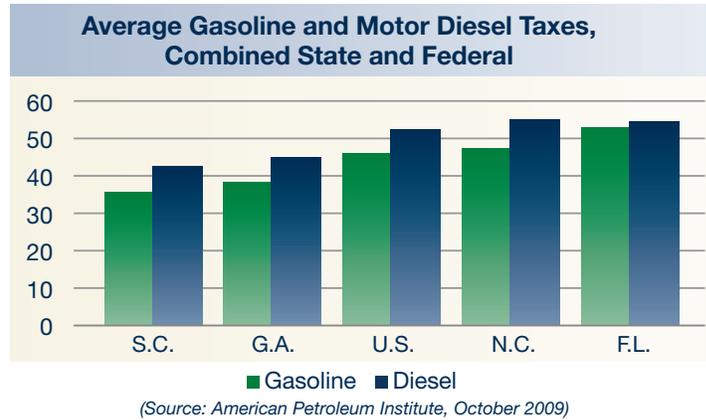
Source: *Global Trade Information Services*

# Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

## LOW FUEL COST *Better Bottom Line*

South Carolina consistently has one of the lower retail fuel costs in the nation, and typically the lowest in the Southeast, both for gasoline and motor diesel fuel. In February 2010, gasoline retail costs in South Carolina were six percent below the national average, while retail diesel costs were five percent below the national average. (Source: AAA)

South Carolina's low fuel cost is due, in part, to the state's low tax levels. Retail buyers, when compared to the national average, pay around 12 cents less per gallon in taxes for gasoline in South Carolina and diesel purchasers pay around 10 cents less per gallon. (Source: American Petroleum Institute)



## DISTRIBUTION & LOGISTICS SECTOR *Confidence in Our State Transportation Infrastructure*

South Carolina continues to reap the benefits of an excellent transportation infrastructure.

- Since 2006, the state has seen capital investment of over \$787 million and over 6,300 jobs created from distribution and logistics companies. (Source: South Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Research Capital Investment Reports)

- In 2007, Jafza International announced plans to purchase 1,300 acres in Orangeburg County for the development of their next logistics hub, a scaled-down version of Jebel Ali Zone in Dubai, which is considered among the fastest-growing free trade zone operations in the world. (Source: The Times and Democrat, November 2007)

- Area Development magazine's special publication, *LDW Logistics Distribution & Warehousing 2009*, named Orangeburg a Top 10 Emerging Logistics Location. (Source: Area Development & LDW Logistics Distribution & Warehousing, 2009)

- In 2007, Hillwood Investment Properties announced plans to develop the Charleston Trade Center, a 750-acre industrial project that includes up to 9 million square feet of primarily logistics and light manufacturing space in Berkeley. Gary Frederick, senior vice president of Hillwood Investment Properties, cited Charleston as a prime logistics location because of its proximity to I-95 and to the Port of Charleston, a key East Coast entry point for goods imported from Asia. The Port of Charleston should continue to handle more containers due to increased use of the Suez Canal and the expansion of the Panama Canal. (Sources: Hillwood Investment Properties and Logistics Online™, November 2007)

